

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 221699
ORIGIN EB-08

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R 311816Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MASERU
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

UNCLAS STATE 221699

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GSP, LT

SUBJECT: GSP REVIEW: PETITION OF GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO

REF: A) STATE 210448 B) STATE 87213

1. THE TRADE POLICY STAFF COMMITTEE WILL HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS ON PRODUCTS ACCEPTED FOR THE 1978-79 ANNUAL GSP REVIEW AS PER REFTEL A. THE EMBASSY OF LESOTHO IN WASHINGTON SUBMITTED A PETITION IN PROPER FORMAT ASKING THE TPSC TO CONSIDER CERTAIN WOOL TAPESTRY AND MOHAIR KARAKUL AND WOOL HAND-CROTCHETED AND HAND-KNITTED ARTICLES FOR ADDITION TO THE US DUTY-FREE LIST.

2. THE EMBASSY HAD LISTED THESE ITEMS BY TSUS NUMBER, BUT IN MOST CASES HAD SELECTED INCORRECT TSUS NUMBERS THAT DID NOT COINCIDE WITH THE ARTICLES DESCRIPTION. IN AN EFFORT TO BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE TO THE
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REQUESTS OF LDCS SUCH AS LESOTHO, THE TPSC MADE A MAJOR EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT HANDICRAFT ITEMS DESCRIBED IN THE LESOTHO PETITION AND NOT INELIGIBLE UNDER THE TRADE ACT (SEE REFTEL B) WOULD BE CONSIDERED DURING THIS GSP REVIEW. CONSEQUENTLY WE WILL BE REVIEWING SOME 45 ITEMS AS A RESULT OF THE LESOTHO PETITION.

3. ITEMS OUTLINED IN REFTEL A WHICH ARE BEING CONSIDERED

AS A RESULT OF THE LESOTHO PETITION ARE TSUS 360.15,
363.0110, 363.02, 363.0505, 363.0530, 363.2550,
363.2590, 363.3005, 363.35, 363.5010, 363.5110,
363.6010, 363.80, 363.8510, 363.90, 364.05, 364.1610,
365.0010, 365.15, 365.25, 365.29, 365.3195, 365.3595,
365.4030, 365.4595, 365.5095, 365.7095, 365.7595,
365.7810, 365.80, 365.81, 365.83, 365.84, AND THE
12 NUMBERS BETWEEN 366.12 AND 366.54 IN REFTEL A.

4. THE TRADE POLICY STAFF COMMITTEE WAS UNABLE TO

ACCEPT THE REQUEST OF THE GOL TO ADD TSUS 532.24,
533.28, 533.31 AND 533.38 (CERAMICS) TO GSP. THESE
ITEMS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED IN THE PUBLIC HEARINGS.

5. THE DEPARTMENT HAS HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBASSY

OF LESOTHO AND WILL ANSWER THE DIPLOMATIC NOTE
SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF THE PETITION. IN THE INTERIM,
HOWEVER, WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF THE EMBASSY
COULD INFORM THE GOL OF THE ABOVE. CHRISTOPHER

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